



Title: Fellow, Youth Mental Health

Duration: 1-year, full-time fellowship with possibility of extension

Location: Remote

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Job Description:

The Kennedy Forum (TKF) Youth Mental Health Fellow will build out a vision for both the field and TKF in advancing progress toward the mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) movement goals of 90-90-90 by 2033, including prevention, population health, and social determinants – specifically as it relates to youth and schools. Over this year-long program, the Fellow will explore four major areas, producing a series of deliverables that culminate in recommendations for TKF and the broader field over both the short- and long-terms.

To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter to jobs@thekennedyforum.org with the subject line “Fellow, Youth Mental Health.” If you have a portfolio or website, please include it in the body of the email. **As this job will require excellent written communications, applications without a cover letter will not be considered.**

Expected start date: ASAP, Role is open until filled

Salary: Commensurate with Experience

Essential Goals, Duties and Deliverables:

1. **Blueprint for effective service systems in schools:** Building on its Medicaid financing work, TKF needs to know how different financing streams, implantation and policies can come together to enable best-in-class systems of care for children in schools – especially in a rapidly changing policy and technology landscape. The Fellow will elevate case studies where states are using effective financing, implementation and policy changes to enable comprehensive systems of care, and offer a blueprint for all states to move forward effective services. Continuation of the School Based Industry Council would provide critical insights to inform this work, ensuring the blueprint reflects both policy and implementation realities.
2. **Applying the best evidence to improve youth mental health:** TKF needs to better understand the research evidence on interventions and implementation strategies to improve population-level outcomes for our nation’s youth, as part of its larger policy research efforts. The Fellow will conduct a rapid review of existing evidence and approaches to outline how different policies options would affect the prevalence and incidence of youth MH/SUD under different implementation scenarios. We would draw from partners experience bridging evidence-based practice and scalable delivery of youth services to inform this work, ensuring that research findings are tied directly to the lived experience of providers.



3. **Identifying emerging challenges and innovations:** TKF has worked on a range of emerging issues, such as social media, gambling, and changing drug policy. Now the landscape is evolving even more rapidly, with new threats and more advocacy initiatives. The Fellow will support research and thought leadership on these emerging threats to youth mental health, while outlining potential entry points for TKF to have impact in the future.
4. **Promoting long-term movement building to impact policy:** TKF supports movements around youth mental health, such as social and emotional learning or community schools. Given new science and a changing political landscape, the most salient and impactful movements for youth mental health in schools will likely evolve. The Fellow will explore emerging opportunities for engagement in larger educational movements and examine how TKF could add to the effort by bringing a MH/SUD perspective.
5. **The goal is to sustain the momentum of School Based Committees** by ensuring the blueprint document is successful, managing the meetings and engagement of the council, and recruiting new members into TKF's larger youth and school mental health work, strengthening long-term movement building through a broad and diverse coalition.

To accomplish these objectives, the Fellow is expected to produce deliverables over the course of the year that may include:

- Blueprint for state policies and practices that enable comprehensive school-based systems of care;
- Policy briefs, white papers, and blog posts advancing TKF and field wide priorities;
- Blog posts and other forms of thought leadership;
- Recruitment of new members into TKF's youth/school mental health portfolio
- Visibility at key meetings and events;
- Virtual and in-person convenings;
- Research support for TKF's youth-related research initiatives;
- Support for TKF founders in speaking and writing; and
- Final recommendations to TKF, which include a landscape analysis, program proposal, objectives and metrics, partnership strategy, and development options.

Throughout this work, the Fellow will work with TKF's policy, partnerships, communications, operations, and development teams to ensure that the work aligns and supports all of TKF's efforts. Together, TKF and the industry council will leverage this fellowship to advance a comprehensive national strategy for school-based mental health care, ensuring that the lessons from implementation directly inform policy change—and that policy, in turn, accelerates access to high-quality services for youth across the country.



It Is a Major Plus if You Also Have:

- An understanding of the machinations of policy work and how to represent value to different audiences
- Experience in policy, nonprofit, OR similar fields

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree with at least seven years of experience in a similar role OR 10 years of experience in a similar role; Master's degree or advanced degree preferred

Requirements:

- Execute a non-disclosure agreement
- Occasional travel required
- Ability to work from home

Employee Value Proposition - An opportunity to participate in a high growth, values driven and superior-performance culture of impactful knowledge workers dedicated to contributing to the greater good. This involves and includes stretch assignments, the ability to work within a collaborative and inclusive environment, and the acceptance of personal responsibility for the achievement of the agreed to results and outcomes of his/her/they work efforts. In short, this is a preparatory opportunity for future personal and professional advancement. Flexible, virtual working conditions. Benefits include medical, dental, vision and 401(k) among others.

The Kennedy Forum makes all hiring decisions in a non-discriminatory manner, without regard to race, ethnicity, creed, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, military service, marital status, different ability or disability, or any other factor unlawful under federal, state, or local law. People of color, indigenous, LGBTQ+, and individuals with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use disorders are strongly encouraged to apply. We are unable to sponsor Visas for this position.

Flexibility, respect, individual responsibility, and passion are vital qualities for The Kennedy Forum. Inclusion, collaboration, and cultural sensitivity are valued competencies given our emphasis on mental health and addiction and our vast network. Therefore, we are in search of a team member who can effectively interact with a varied population of internal and external partners with a high level of integrity.

At this time, The Kennedy Forum is unable to provide visa sponsorship or support for employment-based immigration, including but not limited to H-1B, O-1, or other work authorization visas.